

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00526 150459Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-05 /029 W
-----113717 150912Z /64

R 141142Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J.)
SUBJ: CODEL SOLARZ

REFS: A) STATE 062138; B) STATE 064141

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES CODEL SOLARZ, DCM RAISED VISIT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARCH 13. ON BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE WE BELIEVE THE SOMALIS WILL APPROVE AND GRANT THE APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED. THE DEPT SHOULD CAUTION REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ, HOWEVER, THAT THE GSDR WILL NOT CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS BEFORE A VISITOR'S ARRIVAL. WE HAVE SOUGHT VIGOROUSLY IN THE PAST TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT A SPECIFIC MEETING IS ON THE SCHEDULE, AND WERE REPEATEDLY REBUFFED. ON THE OTHER HAND, GHE GSDR HAS INVARIABLY FOLLOWED OUR SUGGESTIONS EXCEPT FOR THE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT SIAD WHICH IS ALWAYS ANNOUNCED WITHIN A FEW MINUTES OF ITS BEGINNING. ASSUME REP. SOLARZ WISHES TO SEE THE INCUMBENT MINISTER OF FINANCE, DR. MOHAMED YUSUF WEIRAH, AND NOT ABDIRAHMAN NUR HERSI, WHO IS NOW THE ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SIAD. (WE CAN REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH BOTH IF DESIRED.)

2. EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO ARRANGE AS FULL A SCHEDULE AS POSSIBLE, BUT THE SECOND DAY OF REP. SOLARZ'S STAY HERE, MARCH
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24, IS THE MOSLEM SABBATH, AND SOMALIS DO NOT NORMALLY SEE VISITORS ON THAT DAY, A PATTERN THEY HAVE ADHERED TO IN SPITE OF WAR OR OTHER CRISIS. WE SHALL, HOWEVER, ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH OTHER DIPLOMATS AND THIRD COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS. THESE SESSIONS WILL PROBABLY BE INFORMAL AND SOCIAL.

3. THE AMBASSADOR INVITES REP. SOLARZ TO STAY AT THE RESIDENCE DURING HIS VISIT. DCM EXTENDS THE SAME INVITATION TO MR. SHALOM. REGRET IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HOUSE BOTH GUESTS IN ONE RESIDENCE, BUT DCM HOUSE IS JUST FIVE MINUTES BY FOOT FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S AND COMMUNICATION IS NO PROBLEM.

4. MOGADISCIO IS AN INFORMAL CAPITAL WITH MINIMAL PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS. GOVT. OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTERS NORMALLY WEAR OPEN SHIRTS FOR BUSINESS, ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS PROTOCOL OFFICERS WEAR NECKTIES AND SOMETIMES JACKETS. THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF INVARIABLY WEARS AN OPEN COLLAR SLACK ENSEMBLE TO RECEIVE GUESTS. THE AMBASSADOR BY PREFERENCE USUALLY MAKES CALLS IN A BUSINESS SUIT, BUT THE CODEL SHOULD FEEL FREE TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN PREFERENCES. MOGADISCIO WILL BE WARM DURING THEIR STAY WITH HIGHS IN THE 90S. LIGHT CLOTHING IS ADVISABLE. CLIMATE WILL BE SIMILAR TO EARLY JUNE IN WASHINGTON.

5. SEPTTEL CONFIRMING AIR RESERVATIONS FOLLOWS.

6. CONTROL OFFICER IS DCM JOHN R. VOUGHT, ALTERNATE POLITICAL OFFICER STUART SCHWARTZSTEIN. EMBASSY WILL MEET CODEL AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. EMBASSY PHONE IS 28011. VOUGHT HOME IS 32014.

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